

Appl. No. 09/554,344
Amdt. dated Nov 4, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification by adding an Abstract as follows:

Abstract

ATM network comprising a physical network (1) with different stations. A stream of ATM cells is transferred from at least a source station (2) to a group of different destination stations (3...12), via a same virtual transmission path, which is characterized by ATM cells having the same "virtual path identifier". The virtual path (VPI_1) comprises various virtual connections, each characterized by ATM cells having a same "virtual connection identifier", VCI. Furthermore, the group of destination stations is subdivided into various subgroups. The destination stations, which detect the VPIS and the VCIs of the ATM cells appearing at those stations, extract only those ATM cells having a VPI equal to the VPI of the virtual path of the group and a VCI equal to the VCI of the subgroup.

Please replace the paragraph of the specification at page 1, lines 2-19 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to an ATM network, comprising a physical network with different stations, wherein a stream of ATM cells is transferred from at least a source station to a group of different

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destination stations via a same virtual transmission path between the source station and said different destination stations, which transmission path is characterisedcharacterized by ATM cells to which a certain "virtual path identifier", VPI, has been assigned.

Such a network is well known. Therefore, it relates to a point-multipoint (one source station, different destination stations) connection via an ATM network. Herewith "messages" are, by means of ATM cells, sent from at least one source station, to various destination stations. All ATM cells to which a certain VPI has been assigned, are sent by the physical network to all destination stations of one specific group of destination stations. Therefore, the group is also characterisedcharacterized by that VPI. Different source stations can send cells to the same group of destination stations or to different groups of destination stations. In bi-directional traffic a station functions alternately simultaneously as source or destination station.

Please replace the paragraph of the specification at page 1, lines 22-29 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention provides that messages that are destined for a certain group of stations and which are transferred thereto via a virtual path, comprising comprised of ATM cells to which the VPI of that

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virtual path has been assigned, are selectively extracted upon arrival by means of the "virtual connection identifier", VCI, of the ATM cells. In that way different subgroups can be formed within a same group of destination stations, characterised characterized by the group VPI, which subgroups are each characterised characterized by a subgroup VCI.

Please replace the paragraph of the specification at page 1, lines 32 to page 2, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 shows schematically an ATM network 1 to which a server 2 and a number of terminals 3...12 have been connected. All terminals shown there belong to the same group. From server 2 "messages" (data, voice, video) are sent to the terminals 3...12 by means of ATM cells to which a same "virtual path identifier" VPI₁ has been assigned. Terminals that are served via other paths (out of the same server or other servers) are not drawn in the figure. To the ATM cells, is, beside the VPI₁, also a "virtual connection identifier", VCI₁, VCI₂ or VCI₃ is assigned. In that way three subgroups are formed, viz.viz a subgroup A, formed by the terminals 3, 4, 9 and 12, a subgroup B, formed by the terminals 6, 10 and 11, and a subgroup C, consisting of the terminals 5, 7 and 8. All ATM cells with VPI₁, destined for terminals that belong to the group of

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terminals 3...12 which is served by the server 2, are routed by the network 1 to said terminals and appear therefore at all said terminals 3...12. There the VCI values of the cells are investigated. The terminals of subgroup A extract from the cell stream offered only those ATM cells to which VCI₁ has been assigned, the terminals of subgroup B the cells to which VCI₂ has been assigned and the terminals of subgroup C only those to which VCI₃ has been assigned. In that way the subgroups are formed without having to define separate virtual paths.for it.

AB | | Below in figure 1 a number of two ATM cells has been schematically depicted, each having a VPI and a VCI in the header. When the leftmost cell appears at the entrances of the terminals, transferred out of the server 2 via virtual path with VPI₁, said cell will be extracted exclusively by the terminals of subgroup A (VCI = VCI₁). The rightmost cell will only be extracted by terminals of subgroup B (VCI = VCI₂). It is noted that, where in the above embodiment for the sake of clarity a network having unidirectional traffic is shown, viz.viz from the server 2 to the terminals 3...12, the invention is not restricted to unidirectional traffic. At another moment, or simultaneous with the traffic out of the server 2 to the terminals 3...12, the terminals can also send cells. In that case, such a terminal functions as a source station, just as in the preceding the server 2 does. ATM cells can be sent by that source station via a virtual path with a specific VPI, to a group of

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A3 | receiving destination stations. Subgroups can then also be formed by means of assigning assignment of different VCIs to the cells to be sent, whereby said cells are selected by the terminals, which belong to different subgroups, on the basis of their different VCI values.